I. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement

Project Title: Youth Farmers Leadership Program Rain Garden Rain Barrel Neighborhood Installation Project

Purpose and Project Summary-The purpose of the Rid-All Youth Farmers and Leadership Program (YFLP) is to develop youth leaders, and train a new generation of environmental stewards, urban gardeners and organic farmers who can demonstrate technical expertise as well as articulate and understand related place based social and environmental justice issues. Students from the ages of 14-16 came through the first year of the YFLP where we focused on introducing students to the interconnectedness of place, community, environment, water, food, nutrition, health disparities, health equity and environmental justice. Climate change and climate resiliency are related to the food justice and nutrition education and concepts that were introduced last year. In 2015 if awarded, we will emphasize the connection between climate resiliency, storm water management, mitigation, environmental justice and public health. In year 1, we divided the activities and project milestones into topic areas: Watersheds and Wetlands as Solutions; Environmental Health, Justice, Policy and Advocacy Part I**;** Plant Biology, Nutrients, Soils, Aquaponics and Ecosystems; Food Literacy, Nutrition and Health Disparities; Environmental Health, Justice, Policy and Advocacy Part II and Tying it All Together. With YFLP year 2 funding, EHW and Rid-All can continue to develop a youth leadership core by continuing to build students' leadership capacity and knowledge gained from participating in the 2014 summer program. At the end of the year 1 program, students were able to successfully demonstrate the ability to test for water quality and translate results, learn about watersheds and water pollution, design and installation of wetlands and community gardens.

The YFLP Rain garden Rain Barrel Neighborhood Installation Project will address the following environmental statutes: **1) Clean Water Act**, Section 104(b) (3): conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, training, demonstration projects, surveys, and studies (including monitoring) relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. **Programmatic Goals*:*** 1) Reduce the amount of storm water runoff, waste and pollution that negatively impacts our sewer systems, lakes and streams. 2) We want to educate the community about climate change resiliency, how to improve water use efficiency, how to use alternative water sources and making changes to water allocation in relation to the Clean Water Act. 3) Assist the NEORSD in the development of green infrastructure projects to upgrade wastewater and sewage systems to better cope with heavy storms in relation to the Solid Waste Disposal Act. 4) YFLP students will design and install 10 home-based rain gardens and rain barrels in the Ward 4 Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood 5) Four YFLP 2nd year students will receive Roots of Success leadership training and serve as team leaders for the projects.

YFLP student leaders will matriculate through series of leadership and capacity building training components beginning in March of 2015. We have received funding from the Baldwin Foundation to implement 3 modules of the Roots of Success Environmental Literacy Program from March-April 2015. With additional EPA funding for this project, we will add a water module to the overall training. Funding from the Baldwin Foundation will help to support the leadership development component of the YFLP and continue to engage the students who expressed interests in continuing throughout the year. The Roots of Success curriculum is a natural fit and is nationally recognized and endorsed by many of the nation's leading education and workforce programs including YouthBuild, Goodwill, Conservation Corps, and

Green for All, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, San Francisco Department of the Environment, Sustainable South Bronx, and the New York City Department of Education.

We will accomplish our goals by leveraging existing resources, collaborating and coordinating efforts with various community partners. Our core project partners; City of Cleveland Water Pollution Control, North East Ohio Regional Sewer District, Rid-All Green Partnership and the student leaders who graduated from the EPA funded YFLP will be instrumental in implementation of the Rain Garden Rain Barrel Neighborhood Installation Project.

Roots of Success Environmental Literacy and Leadership Training

Roots of Success curriculum works well for all students but was specifically designed for youth and adults who are struggling in school, low literacy levels or have barriers to employment. The pedagogical approach engages students, makes learning relevant, builds on previous knowledge and experiences, and connects what students are learning in the classroom to real world issues. *Roots of Success* consists of 10 modules: Fundamentals of Environmental Literacy; Water; Waste; Transportation; Energy; Building; Health, Food & Agriculture; Community Organization & Leadership; Financial Literacy & Social Entrepreneurship; and Application & Practice. We plan to engage 15-20 urban youth ages 16-24 in the City of Cleveland through our Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health Initiative by focusing on and teaching 4 of the 10 modules from the Roots of Success Curriculum (ROS) in Spring 2015; Fundamentals of Environmental Literacy, Health Food and Agriculture, Community Organizing and Leadership. The curriculum incorporates social and environmental justice principles, environmental literacy, academic skills, job readiness/career pathways, and leadership development. In addition to classroom instruction, we will take the students to the Rid-All Urban Farm located in the Kinsman/Central neighborhood in the City of Cleveland, to the Water Waste Treatment Plant and lab tour. The students will observe testing at Edgewater beach.

Module	Roots of Success Module Description
1. Fundamentals of Environmental Literacy (Introduction)	Helps students think about the interconnectedness between natural systems, biological systems and social systems and the connection between human activity and the environment. Students go through a series of activities that allow them to analyze environmental issues, problems, and solutions from the multi-disciplinary perspectives of environmental science, math, technology, public health, social science, land use planning, policy analysis, environmental justice, and civics. The job readiness exercises focuses on understanding career pathways and ladders for each module.
2. Water	Introduces students to basic concepts and issues relevant to water extraction, management and use, the characteristics of water, how water is used in different settings, the importance of water for humans and other species, the water cycle, water use in agriculture, modern water management approaches, the inequitable distribution of fresh water, ground water extraction, wastewater management, and water contamination. Activities allow students to analyze different approaches to conserve water and reduce contamination, including: water saving technologies, grey water and rainwater catchment systems, native and edible landscaping, ecological wastewater treatment systems, programs and incentives offered by local governments or utilities.
7. Health, Food & Agriculture	Focuses on human health, food systems, and agricultural production. Students learn about health, nutrition, local and global food systems, agricultural practices, industrial agriculture, global food systems, factory farming, GMO crops, processed and fast food, food deserts, how to increase health and food justice, local food systems, urban agriculture, backyard and community gardening, and health education.
8. Community Organizing & Leadership	Introduces students to civic engagement, advocacy, community organizing, and leadership approaches, strategies, and skill sets. The module helps students understand the roles and responsibilities of an effective advocate and organizer. Students identify the root causes of problems, build a community-based organization, craft a mission statement, identify organizational goals and values, strategize campaigns, and simulate door-to-door campaigns.

Technical Training-The students will receive technical assistance training from the staff of NEORSD to understand storm water data and how it relates to storm water management and mitigation solutions. NEORSD has committed to specific technical assistance activities related to: Education on NEORSD, Project Clean Lake; Waste Water Treatment Plant, Beach Sampling (Rachel Webb and Ebony Hood); CCR: Waste Water Treatment Plant and Lab Tour, and Observe Beach Sampling; Watersheds: NEORSD and Project Clean Lake; Education on storm water management – rain barrels and gardens (Dave Ritter);Rain garden design and installation: plant selection, how to install, maintenance Yalinda Moore, Assistant Manager Marketing/Communications for Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control will educate the student leadership team about reducing water waste, pesticide use and contamination utilizing the existing Only Rain Down the Drain education program. Dave Wright, Permaculture design and water mitigation expert who served as the YFLP year 1 program manager, will work as a technical advisor for year 2 and will assist with rain garden training, installation and education. Dave Hester, Master Gardener for Rid-All Green Partnership will work with training the students on rain garden design and installation. Akbar Tyler, Construction and Healthy Homes Manger for EHW will serve as the program coordinator for the Rain Garden Rain Barrel Project and will complete a certified permaculture design course in April 2015. Akbar will train new students and re-train YFLP year 1 student leaders on rain barrel installations and work with David Wright to receive additional technical training for the rain garden installations.

Community Education and Recruitment-Educational delivery methods, varying with audience and subject matter, will include interactive presentations, structured discussions, field visits, hands-on workshops, and in-home assistance. All activities will be hosted within the Buckeye-Woodland neighborhood in venues accessible to public transportation. Sessions will be held in the evenings and/or weekends, as needed, to accommodate participants. Residents will be recruited at the community meetings, by referrals, at events, through our community and organizational networks/ partners, and through media outlets to submit requests for rain gardens and barrels to be installed at their property.

Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Installations-The installation activities will take place in targeted neighborhoods to make the most impact. We have engaged the NEORSD because they are mandated to install Green Infrastructure projects in the listed environmental justice communities that have the greatest need. We will focus our efforts in the Buckeye-Woodhill community located in Cleveland, Ohio 44120 and 44104 zip codes centered around the GI Projects. We have relationships with community partners who have existing youth programs and will collaborate and engage with additional community partners focused on water pollution and climate change initiatives in the City of Cleveland where there are synergies and opportunities.

At the completion of the program, students will be able to*:* 1) understand how data influences implementation. 2) Understand the connection between climate change and health 3) Demonstrate how to interpret data and educate community members about storm water and water pollution issues. 4) understand how storm water and waste impacts Lake Erie. 5) Have the ability to design and install rain gardens and rain barrels. 6) Students will participate in leadership training and demonstrate leadership capacity by assisting with project development, design and implementation.

City of Cleveland Community Climate Action Plan-The Cleveland Climate Action Plan (CAP) consists of 33 citywide actions aimed at tackling climate change while improving quality of life. To be successful, it depends on neighborhood leadership. A Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit has been developed to help neighborhoods and residents incorporate the climate actions into their local work in ways that advance neighborhood visions while meeting CAP

goals at the same time. To develop the Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit, the City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability, supported by Enterprise Community Partners, worked with partner organizations in several communities to map out how local climate action projects build on neighborhood assets, address neighborhood concerns, and advance Cleveland's climate action goals. Environmental Health Watch is part of the City of Cleveland Climate Action Plan Advisory Council and has assisted in the development of the City-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Community Tool Kits.

We will utilize this program and tool kit to educate residents about The Cleveland Climate Action Plan as well as and Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit, which is intended to help neighborhoods and residents take actions to advance their goals while also furthering Cleveland's climate action goals. The Toolkit takes an asset-based approach to neighborhood climate action. It helps neighborhoods build on their strengths, or assets, to engage residents in developing creative climate action projects that people will care about, get involved in, and lead. Examples of assets include strong local organizations, block clubs, people's skills and passions, historical buildings, popular gathering places, thriving natural areas, family traditions (of saving/being frugal, gardening, sharing, etc.), community history of coming together to address big challenges—and many more.

II. Environmental, Public Health and Community Climate Resiliency (if applicable) information about the Affected Community

Waste water Management and water quality As in most urban areas across the nation, Greater Cleveland's earliest sewers (primarily within the city and its inner-ring suburbs) are **combined sewers**. Built around the turn of the nineteenth century, these sewers carry sewage, industrial waste, and storm water in a single pipe. The area's earliest sewers, primarily those built within the City of Cleveland and portions of surrounding suburbs, are combined sewers. Combined sewers carry sanitary waste, industrial waste and storm water runoff in a single pipe. The North East Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORSD) service area includes over 75 square miles served by combined sewers, located primarily in the City of Cleveland. Lake Erie is a drinking-water source for 11 million people as well as a major tourist and recreational destination. However, the health of this resource is being challenged by the increasing impacts of heavy rainfall events. During these events, storm water runoff and floodwaters flow over impervious surfaces and sometimes frozen, impermeable ground, overwhelming the area's sewer infrastructure, pouring into local waterways, and ultimately disturbing the lake's ecosystem and water quality.

Over the past 50 years, the Midwest and Great Lakes region has experienced a 31 percent increase in heavy precipitation events, according to the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Several ―100-year‖ precipitation events have struck northeastern Ohio in the past decade. These events add complication to the area's combined sewer infrastructure, which handles both raw sewage and untreated storm water. When overwhelmed, it is designed to release untreated storm water and sewage directly into the waterways through combined sewer overflows (CSOs). In February 2011, heavy rainfall, combined with snowmelt, resulted in violations of the Clean Water Act when hundreds of millions of gallons of untreated or partially treated storm water was released into streams, Lake Erie, and the Cuyahoga River. Water contamination poses well-documented human health risks. Incidents of contamination also negatively affect the area's economic health in lost tourism revenue, beach advisories, the costs of treating waterborne illnesses, and other problems.

In 1972, the Clean Water Act was created to address water quality issues, like raw sewage discharges. Although NEORSD has reduced raw sewage discharges significantly over the years and holds permits for discharge points, the EPA considers NEORSD in violation of the Clean Water Act because not all

discharges have been controlled to required levels. The NEORSD and the federal government entered into a Consent Decree to address this issue. The Consent Decree is a legally binding document entered into by the North East Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD), the Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The document details what NEORSD has called Project Clean Lake. Project Clean Lake is a $3 billion, 25-year program that will reduce the total volume of raw sewage discharges from 4.5 billion gallons to 494 million gallons annually. Over 98% of wet weather flows in our combined sewer system will be receiving treatment in 25 years.

City of Cleveland/Buckeye-Woodland Community Profile-The four NLEH EPA CARE neighborhoods; Mt. Pleasant, Buckeye-Woodland, Central and Fairfax make up the core of the eastside of The City of Cleveland—a city that year after year ranks in the top tier of the Census Bureau's ranking of the poorest city in the U.S. ,with a poverty rate exceeding 30%. The foreclosure crisis is a major stressor for Cleveland neighborhoods, with tens of thousands of vacant buildings blighting the community. As of July 2014, there are over 43,000 vacant units, resulting in steeply declining property values throughout the city further erode community resources.

In the Buckeye-Woodhill Community :

- 96% of the residents are African American, only 12% obtained an Associate degree or higher, 30% have had some high school and 28% graduated from high school
- The median household income is $14, 491 compared to $27, 349 for the city of Cleveland.
- The unemployment rate is at 31% compared to the city unemployment rate of 18%
- The child poverty rate is at 66% and elder poverty rate (65+) 36%
- 42% of households receive food stamps

Results and Community Benefit-Residents who participate in the *Rain Garden Rain Barrel* Project will have a better understanding and awareness about how climate change and health are related strategies that can help reduce the effects of climate change for themselves as individuals and as a community, get connected with resources, climate change and sustainability initiatives happening in the City of Cleveland. Residents will specifically learn about the NEORSD Green Infrastructure Projects in their community, how they function and any co-benefits related to the projects. Residents will receive hands-on assistance with reducing water use, help with resources to reduce storm water on their property and learn about other mitigation strategies. This project will demonstrate to people how changes in their behavior, as it affects the environment, can also have direct effects on their health, budget and quality of life, and on the well-being of their neighbors. We will provide assistance to help them achieve these beneficial effects. More broadly, stewardship will also be advanced by building our education strategy upon the widespread support for various sustainability initiatives and the enthusiastic participation in our EPA CARE project. YFLP Student Leaders will receive leadership training, technical assistance and education about storm water, pollution and mitigation strategies, and build capacity to be effective team leaders and learn how to successfully implement a community project.

Partner Commitments-*North East Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) Green Infrastructure Project*: GI is defined in the Consent Decree as "a range of storm water control measures that use plant/soil systems, permeable pavement, or storm water harvest and reuse, to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspirate storm water and reduce flows to the combined sewer system (CSS). Green infrastructure may include, but is not limited to, bioretention and extended detention wetland areas as well as green roofs and cisterns." Green infrastructure can improve socio-economic conditions where the need is greatest, by improving conditions in areas impacted by environmental justice concerns. The use of GI offers the possibility of transforming vacant brownfields located in minority and low income residential areas into valuable community assets. The District's GI Plan will capitalize on the potential to use legal

and financial mechanisms such as the Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Land banks to transform the area's numerous vacant or abandoned properties to productive use, helping to revitalize disadvantaged communities and resulting in cleaner air and green space. A key component of the Consent Decree requires the District to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan (GI Plan). This GI Plan shall detail how the District will control an additional 44 million gallons (MG) of wet weather CSO volume above the gray infrastructure control measures required by the Consent Decree through green infrastructure (GI) and spend at least $42 million dollars to build GI projects The GI Plan describes the efforts the District will make to prioritize environmental justice considerations into its site selection process, to provide for an evaluation of environmental justice considerations as a co-benefit of the GI projects, and to consider collaborative decision making with community groups whenever possible in developing and implementing the GI Plan.

The Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC), as the storm water manager for the City of Cleveland, is responsible for overseeing matters relating to the elimination, control and regulation of water pollution within the city limits. Division of Water Pollution Control launched the multi-year Only Rain Down the Storm Drain campaign to educate Cleveland residents about how to help lessen the impact of contaminated storm water runoff on local waterways. Each year the campaign highlights a different issue that could impact the health of local waterways. The City of Cleveland complies with Environmental Protection Agency requirements to maintain its storm water permit. The City's Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) program focuses on educating the entire community. Water Pollution Control Public Education is an important component of WPC's authority as Cleveland's storm water manager. Annually, WPC participates in numerous community events to inform residents and others about how their personal actions related to storm water runoff can impact water quality and impede the free-flowing capacity of the city's sewer system. The division promotes the use of low-impact best management practices (BMP) to help prevent flooding, protect stream channels and improve water quality. The City Division of Water Pollution Control has committed partnering with the YFLP to implement the Only Rain Down the Drain the Storm Drain community education program. The DWPC can also assist with rain barrel install training the youth leadership who are involved with Rain Garden Rain Barrel Neighborhood Installation Project.

***Rid-All Green Partnership (RGP*)** is the local affiliate and regional training center of Growing Power, a national urban agriculture authority. Rid-All's greenhouses, hoop houses and gardens are training sites for *Green 'n tha Ghetto,* their local foods and environmental sustainability program. Rid-All's mission is to transform communities by providing access to nutritionally rich foods and education and training to assist the community in conceptualizing the value of environmental stewardship. Rid-All also operates an urban farm which produces two tons of fresh produce annually. The farm site also produces over 3,000 tilapia fish each year and manages a major composting station that processed over 1.3 million pounds of organic produce waste in 2012. Rid-All also manages a farmer's co-op with other urban and rural farmers in the Northeast Ohio region that supplies local restaurants, grocers and farmer's markets. .In 2012, Rid-All Commercial Urban Agricultural Training Center began implementing the Edible Forest Garden Educational Trail Project, a restoration demonstration project for the purposes of reducing storm water runoff, creating a edible forest garden, demo trail, and preservation of wetland plants and species. The restoration and demonstration slope and bio swale project is highly visible and in direct site of commuters and residents who take the Regional Transit Authority Rail into Downtown Cleveland. The Rid-All demo trail/wetland project is complimentary with NEORSD's priorities for an interceptor, as part of the Project Clean Lake Kingsbury Run watershed and fits with Great Lakes Restoration goals in urban watershed tributaries to the Lake Erie AOC-Cuyahoga River, particularly as a community education project and workforce training opportunity.

EHW Partner Relationships- Environmental Health Watch and Rid-All Green Partnership have a long-standing relationship which began in 1999 and have worked on research, soil testing, community events,

outreach and workshops. We are partnering for year two of the Youth Farmers Leadership Program and Rid-All Farm has committed to be the site and location for education sessions, provide technical training by staff and assist with purchasing materials, rain garden construction and installations.

Keymah Durden, one of the Rid –All Founding members worked with EHW on implementation of the EPA funded Green Houses and Green Houses Project and is a principal in the Rid-All Green Partnership, where his focus areas are urban agriculture, housing deconstruction, and education. He completed Will Allen's Growing Power Commercial Agriculture Training Program. Keymah is an instructor in Rid-All's Regional Outreach Training Center, an affiliate of Growing Power. He also has training in waste water management. Keymah has committed to assisting with water waste education and assisting with over site of the installation projects. EHW is currently a member of the NEORSD Green Infrastructure External Advisory Council and has received support from the Sewer District for the YFLP. The Sewer District and the City Division of Water Pollution Control is one of the many community partners for the Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health Initiative lead by EHW.

The WPC has committed to providing technical assistance and education to the YFLP team leaders and residents. In 2015 pending EPA funding EHW will partner with the Sewer District to assist with community engagement and outreach for the Brownfields Implementation Project. NEORSD has committed to specific technical assistance activities: Education on NEORSD, Project Clean Lake; Waste Water Treatment Plant, Beach Sampling (Rachel Webb and Ebony Hood); CCR: Waste Water Treatment Plant and Lab Tour, and Observe Beach Sampling; Watersheds: NEORSD and Project Clean Lake; Education on storm water management – rain barrels and gardens (Dave Ritter);Rain garden design and installation: plant selection, how to install, maintenance.

V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability

Accounting Programs and Financial Management Systems- EHW currently utilizes the QuickBooks Program to manage organization finances and budgets. We have a part-time bookkeeper and contract with two certified public accountants. One reconciles our bank accounts, prepares our monthly financial statements and serves as our grants manager. We have a second CPA who prepares our yearly fiscal audit.

Past Project Management and Reporting-Environmental Health Watch has a long history of completing projects, meeting and sometimes exceeding our objectives and goals. Our most recent funded EPA program that was completed in August of 2014 was the Youth Farmers Leadership Program. ***The Youth Farmers Leadership Program*** aims to increase food access, decrease health disparities, improve water quality, and implement storm water management solutions. There is a decreasing and aging of black farmer population, by targeting the youth, we hope to increase the number of youth leaders, urban farmers and environmental stewards. Our ***short-term goal*** is to begin to develop environmental stewards who will understand the importance of water quality and educate about practical application of storm water management solutions in an urban farm setting. We will also incorporate age appropriate organic farming and urban agriculture basics. The students will be able to demonstrate and understanding of water sheds and water management solutions, ecosystems, plant and soil interaction, permaculture design, food literacy and nutrition, environmental justice and health disparities, group facilitation and presentation.

Descriptions of evaluation measures and results 1. Curricula designed for place based experiential environmental education that is uniquely urban issues responsive, and adaptive to inputs from student driven leadership is piloted /evaluated; We developed the curriculum by integrating hands-on activities, opportunities for students to make decisions, develop presentations, and lead meetings in the targeted communities. Having the field trips and inviting decision makers who are responsible in helping to shape our urban core and develop solutions to the issues we are facing enhanced the content and environmental educational pieces of the program. 2. Students demonstrate understanding of, and proficiencies in, sense

of place, water quality/watershed dynamics; soils systems, soil compaction, toxins and remediation strategies; foods production-health-access, environmental stewardship and leadership, neighborhood asset mapping, outreach & audience development. **Measure:** Students will complete 10 water and 10 soil samples for compost analysis at the Rid-All Farm site. Students will take 10 total samples at potential community gardens (5 at each site), evaluate, interpret and present lab results at the community meetings. Student journals, neighborhood asset maps completed and testing rubrics are evaluated.; 10 water and 10 soil samples (composite) were collected during the field trip and site visits. The students interpreted and presented results at the community meeting. The development of the power point presentation demonstrated their understanding of the issues presented in the curriculum. 4. Capstone projects; 2 community gardens made public and shared among environmental clubs, neighborhood programs, YouTube and other media. **Measure:** Two community gardens will be completed; Two community gardens were designed and installed by students in NLEH EPA CARE communities. 5. 15 Student Leaders ages 14-16 are selected, engaged. **Measure:** 15 students complete the 200 hours of training and education;12 students completed the 200 hours of training and education and 4 have continued to engage with EHW and Rid-All Farm.

In addition to the measureable outcomes, we decided to call the parents at the end of the program to see if students made any noticeable changes at home from the parent perspective. Parents reported students taking on more responsibility, cooking more and were communicating with them more often at home to talk about their day and activities when they were participating in the YFLP.

Organizational Experience-Since 1980, EHW has helped the public and policy-makers in Cuyahoga County address critical health concerns related to our urban/industrial environment. We create, asses, demonstrate, and advocate for programs that reduce human exposure to harmful substances, promote health, and sustain the natural environment. Our program staff has long tenure, technical expertise, authentic links to the community, effective relationships with numerous partner organizations, and deep commitment to improving environmental health in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. EHW's mission is to offer information, assistance, and advocacy to help people protect themselves from significant environmental threats and to influence corporate, government, and personal actions that promote human health and environmental sustainability. EHW's organizational values – environmental sustainability, protection of human health, environmental justice, health equity, and precautionary action – are the foundation for these programmatic efforts.

Environmental Health Watch *(EHW*) works with the general public and policy makers in Northeast Ohio to address critical health concerns related to the urban environment. EHW devises, demonstrates, and promotes green housing and community environmental health programs to prevent and reduce exposures to harmful substances, indoors and outdoors, that cause or aggravate serious health conditions. Environmental Health Watch has a database of over 300 residents from the four core target neighborhoods that we have built relationships with and who are engaged through the *Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health*, *Green Houses and Green Houses, and Easy Does It Cooking Class* projects and activities. Through the grassroots efforts of *NLEH*, EHW has relationships with residents, developed and maintained organizational and community based partnerships. Our extensive network of partners throughout the City of Cleveland have expertise, resources and community connections related to grassroots organizing, health disparity statistics/education, local foods/food justice, community gardening and urban farming. Over the years, we have collaborated on various hands-on direct service projects and community events.

Federally Funded Projects and Management **Title: Youth Farmers Leadership Program-** Grant number: 00E01199, Point-of-contact: Sharon Lowery-Martin, Amount 37,100, and Agency EPA;

Title: Green Houses and Green Houses-Grant number: NE-00E00941-0**,**Point- of -contact: Megan Gavin**,** Amount: $81,432**,** Agency: EPA; **Title: Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health**-Grant number:RE-00E92901-0, Point-of contact: Martha Robinson, Amount 100,000, Agency EPA

We will utilize a logic model and time-line to guide implementation of the ***Rain Gardens Rain Barrel Project*** in order to insure completion of project tasks and achievement of our goals and objectives. The logic model Outputs and Outcomes are presented in the attached Project Performance Measures appendix. Activities in our logic model were described above.

VI. Qualifications of the Project Manager (PM)

Kim Foreman (resume attached), EHW Interim Executive Director will be the Project Manager, and will have overall responsibility for administration, project management and coordination. Kim Foreman Graduated from Case Western Reserve in 2001 with a degree in Sociology (honors), and a minor in chemistry. As the Associate Director for Environmental Health Watch and now the Interim Executive Director, Kim has experience working with and educating a range of audiences on Environmental Justice issues and adverse outcomes of environmental exposures both indoors and outdoors that disproportionately impact poor and minority communities. During her fifteen years with EHW, she has developed, implemented and managed various local, direct-service on the ground grassroots, community engagement and national projects. Building on the grassroots work through the NLEH initiative, Kim has continued to increase the community capacity to reduce health disparities and environmental impacts by implementing direct service projects described below. Kim was the Project Manager for The most recent EPA funded *Youth Farmers Leadership Program* 2013-2014, *Easy Does it Cooking Classes I and II*-Baldwin Foundation, *Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health*- EHW's EPA CARE grant, and *Green Houses and Greenhouses* -EPA Environmental Education grant.

Youth Farmers Leadership Program

The purpose of the Rid-All Youth Farmers and Leadership Program (YFLP) is to develop youth leaders, and train a new generation of urban gardeners and organic farmers who can demonstrate technical expertise as well as articulate and understand related place based social and environmental justice issues. The Rid-All Youth Training and Leadership Program will benefit the target communities by providing access to a successful organic urban farm and influencing the next generation to appreciate and value environmental stewardship and environmental justice.. They will advocate for food justice and equity, increase the representation of people of color and leadership in the local food movement, work toward reducing health disparities, food desserts and increase community access to fresh, organic, quality food and numbers of organic local farmers in the city of Cleveland.

The Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health Initiative (NLEH) is grounded in the extensive network of community residents who have been trained through the Neighborhood Leadership, Inc. programs. *NLEH* also builds upon numerous past and ongoing environmental projects that gather the data needed for community education, priority-setting and action plan development. This data, presented in accessible language and formats, includes air pollution levels, air toxics sources, mercury contamination of Lake Erie fish, housing-related health hazards, local carbon footprint, pesticide exposure, and other information of concern to community stakeholders. More than just talk and planning, *Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health* links with on-going action and advocacy activities, providing concrete benefits and vehicles for action by community participants. These on-going activities include programs for home energy conservation and efficiency (reducing local pollution, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, shrinking utility bills); community gardens, farmers markets; and reducing exposure to lead hazards, asthma triggers and pesticides.

Green Houses and Greenhouses Project The purpose and goal of the *Green Houses and Greenhouses Project* is to educate residents and encourage homeowners and tenants living in the Buckeye, Woodland Hills, and Larchmere neighborhoods to make changes in their own homes, reduce home health hazards, energy use and water use; manage storm water; plant community and home gardens. As part of the project, we will conduct home visits; provide air sealing and supplies to assist residents in reducing energy use and cost. The combination of workshops and hands-on activities will equip residents with the knowledge, analysis skills, and decision-making capabilities to advance resident health and well-being, community sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Easy Does It Cooking Classes Our *Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health and Green Houses and Greenhouses* projects engaged Vel Scott, a well-known community leader, local chef, nutrition educator, and urban gardener. Vel partnered with us and provided local, healthy refreshments for our community meetings and gave brief presentations on the recipes, local sourcing of the ingredients, and their nutritional benefits. As a result of the positive feedback we have received regarding Ms. Scott's demonstrations, the *NLEH* partners and leadership team would like to expand our nutrition education efforts by hosting neighborhood cooking courses beginning spring of 2013 to introduce resident stakeholders to issues of nutrition, personal action and community health through preparing and sharing of healthy foods.

VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

Title: Youth Farmers Leadership Program- Grant number: 00E01199, Point-of-contact: Sharon Lowery-Martin, Amount 37,100, Agency EPA**; Title: Easy Does It Cooking Classes-**Point-of-contact: Sara Hamil, Amount 15,000**; Title: Green Houses and Green Houses**-Grant number: NE-00E00941-0**,** Point- of -contact: Megan Gavin**,** Amount: $81,432**,** Agency: EPA

All of our education efforts are designed to increase awareness of and knowledge of critical issues. But all go beyond this to help people learn the critical analysis and problem-solving skills so they can take effective action. For example, there is a lot of information available concerning asthma triggers control and energy savings, but to apply it in their own homes, people need to analyze their site-specific conditions, prioritize actions, choose among alternative interventions, and develop and implement a strategy that best fits their conditions and situation. Environmental Health Watch has put in place management information systems to track activities and outputs and compare them with benchmarks. At monthly project partner meetings, activities, outputs and benchmarks have been monitored, deviations analyzed, and, as needed, changes made to ensure timely and completed outputs. Evaluation tools used: sign-in sheets, pre- and post-class assessments of learning; direct observations during home visits, home garden and community garden visits; follow-up contacts via phone calls or email; and observations of community development activities. Utilizing the methods mentioned above, we have been very successful meeting or exceeding our benchmarks, expected outputs and outcomes.

VIII. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information

We will utilize existing data provided by the NEORSD to inform and implement this project. No sampling or data collection will be done by the participants in this program.